

103D Congress  
1st Session

**H. R. NNNN**

To provide for a coordinated program to fully develop the Nation's "information commons" by integrating all elements of the information continuum including universities, state and local governments, and the national and defense intelligence communities, by establishing Chief Information Officers and a National Knowledge Foundation charged with encouraging, through grants and incentive programs, a nation-wide "information commons" characterized by fully-distributed knowledge-bases, an order of magnitude increase in the amount of substantive multi-media and multi-lingual data available online, individual centers of excellence in particular knowledge areas, and full access to the commons by individual citizens..

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

July 4, 1993

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**A BILL**

To provide for a coordinated program to fully develop the Nation's "information commons" by integrating all elements of the information continuum including universities, state and local governments, and the national and defense intelligence communities, by establishing Chief Information Officers and a National Knowledge Foundation charged with encouraging, through grants and incentive programs, a nation-wide "information commons" characterized by fully-distributed knowledge-bases, an order of magnitude

increase in the amount of substantive multi-media and multi-lingual data available online, individual centers of excellence in particular knowledge areas, and full access to the commons by individual citizens..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**--This Act may be cited as the "National Information Commons Act of 1993"

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**--The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents

Sec. 2. Findings

## **TITLE I--CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Sec. 101. Designation of a Chief Information Officer

Sec. 102. Duties of the Chief Information Officer

## **TITLE II--DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION OFFICERS**

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Sec 102. Duties of Departmental Chief Information Officers

## **TITLE III--NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION**

Sec. 101. Establishment of the National Knowledge Foundation

Sec. 102. Objectives of the National Knowledge Foundation

Sec. 103. Organization of the National Knowledge Foundation

#### **TITLE IV--TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Sec. 101. Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Functional Transfer of Funds

#### **SECTION 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds that--

(1) The Nation is entering the "Information Age" largely unprepared for global competition, lacking a national knowledge strategy or any focal point for fully integrating and nurturing the "information commons" of the Nation.

(2) The "information commons" consists of all unclassified information in the public domain, information maintained in various media, including electronic media, by the "information continuum".

(3) The "information continuum" consists of our schools (Kindergarten through 12th grade) and universities; our public and private libraries; our large and small businesses; our news media and our publishing houses; the departments of the Federal government as well as State and local governments; and the national and defense intelligence communities.

(4) In the "Information Age" (some would say in the age of "Information Warfare") national competitiveness and the prosperity of the

citizens of the United States of America requires strong and comprehensive leadership from the government.

(5) Federal initiatives as approved by Congress in the arenas of high performance computing and high-speed networks are a significant but not a sufficient element of national competitiveness.

(6) The High Performance Computing Act of 1991, as amended, is a vital element of national competitiveness, focusing as it does on high performance computing and networking; on connectivity.

(7) What is lacking in initiatives to date is a focus on citizen access and on the substance of the Nation's information commons. Also lacking is a formal designation of a single individual, such as the Vice-President of the United States of America, to serve as the Nation's Chief Information Officer.

(8) A National Knowledge Foundation, funded from within the National Foreign Intelligence Program but under the direct oversight of the Vice-President of the United States of America, is an essential element of a national knowledge strategy and national competitiveness.

(9) Such a foundation, suitably empowered through annual appropriations, could significantly accelerate the development of distributed centers of excellence throughout the Nation, facilitating diverse and complementary multi-media and multi-lingual collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination activities.

**TITLE I--CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Sec. 101. Designation of a Chief Information Officer. The Vice-President of the United States of America is hereby designated the Chief Information Officer of the United States of America.

Sec 102. Duties of the Chief Information Officer. The Chief Information Officer shall be responsible for:

(a) Devising for Presidential and Congressional approval a National Knowledge Strategy, to be submitted simultaneously with the Budget of the United States.

(b) Serving as Chairman of the Senior Inter-Agency Group (Information), which shall be comprised of the Chief Information Officers of each of the Departments of governments, together with the Librarian of Congress and the Director of the Congressional Research Service, the latter two individuals in an *ex officio* capacity.

(c) Monitoring, coordinating, and approving all information-related expenditures of the various Departments of government, to include intelligence, investigative, information processing, library, and information collection expenditures.

(d) Serving as the senior government official responsible for both unclassified and classified information collection, processing, and

dissemination; and as the reporting senior of the Director of the National Knowledge Foundation (the principal for collecting, processing, and disseminating unclassified information); and of the Director of Central Intelligence (the principal for collecting, processing, and disseminating classified information).

(e) Serving as the principal advocate and representative of our citizens' requirements for access to information.

## **TITLE II--DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION OFFICERS**

Sec. 101. Designation of Departmental Chief Information Officers. Each Department of the Federal government is directed to establish the position of Chief Information Officer.

Sec. 102. Duties of Departmental Chief Information Officers. The Chief Information Officer of each Department shall be responsible for:

(a) Developing the Department's contribution to the National Knowledge Strategy

(b) Representing the Secretary of the Department to the Senior Inter-Agency Group (Information).

(c) Monitoring, coordinating, and approving all information-related expenditures of the Department, to include intelligence, investigative, information processing, library, and information collection expenditures.

(d) Managing Departmental information and intelligence requirements

to optimize utilization of unclassified information, and the dissemination of unclassified information collected or produced by the Department into the information commons, while also ensuring that Departmental requirements for classified intelligence are satisfied.

(e) Serving as the principal advocate and representatives of our citizens' requirements for access to information collected or produced by the respective Department.

### **TITLE III--NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION**

Sec. 101. Establishment of the National Knowledge Foundation. A National Knowledge Foundation is hereby established as a separate element of the Office of the Vice-President (Chief Information Officer).

Sec. 102. Objectives of the National Knowledge Foundation.

(a) The National Knowledge Foundation shall serve as the staff arm of the Vice-President (Chief Information Officer) and of the Senior Inter-Agency Group (Information). Its relationship to the various Departments of governments shall be analogous to that of the Community Management Staff to the various national intelligence agencies, but limited to all information-related funds and personnel.

(b) The National Knowledge Foundation shall have two principal objectives:

(1) To foster the development of simple interactive tools which

significantly facilitate the access of individual citizens to the "information commons" and to all information in that commons, including government information; and

(2) To increase the substance of the commons, by providing grants and other incentives to the Departments of government, to private sector organizations, and to foreign and international entities, in order to maximize the amount of multi-media, multi-lingual information available in the commons. This responsibility shall include service as the principal organization responsible for ensuring that unclassified "open source" materials are collected, processed, and disseminated throughout the government and into the information commons.

(c) The National Knowledge Foundation shall not duplicate any of the activities of the various offices associated with the National Information Initiative and its components, but shall focus on ensuring that the National Information Initiative is complemented with significant substantive initiatives to increase the international collection and processing of information which can be accessed by citizens and organizations through the high performance computers and networks being established under the auspices of the National Information Initiative.

Sec. 103. Organization of the National Knowledge Foundation. The National



Knowledge Foundation shall be organized as follows:

(a) The Director of the National Knowledge Foundation shall also be designated Assistant to the Vice President for Information Policy, with appropriate rank and pay grade.

(b) The National Knowledge Foundation shall establish a headquarters in the National Capitol Area, convenient to the major Departments of the Federal government as well as the offices of major information associations and major universities.

(c) The National Knowledge Foundation shall consist of no more than 100 individual full-time government employees, with an average pay grade of GS-14.

(d) The National Knowledge Foundation will utilize the same personnel and contractual facilities available to the Office of the Vice-President of the United States, but shall be exempt from all hiring and pay restrictions imposed by the Office of Personnel.

#### **TITLE IV--TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Sec. 101. Authorization of Appropriations. There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this Act \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 1994; \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 1995; \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 1996; and \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 1997 and every year thereafter, indexed for inflation.

**Sec. 101. Functional Transfer of Funds. Funds for the National Knowledge Foundation shall be realigned by the Office of Management and Budget from existing funds authorized and appropriated to the National Foreign Intelligence Program.**